

# Zapata Falls Special Recreation Management Area

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## *Recreation Activity Management Plan*

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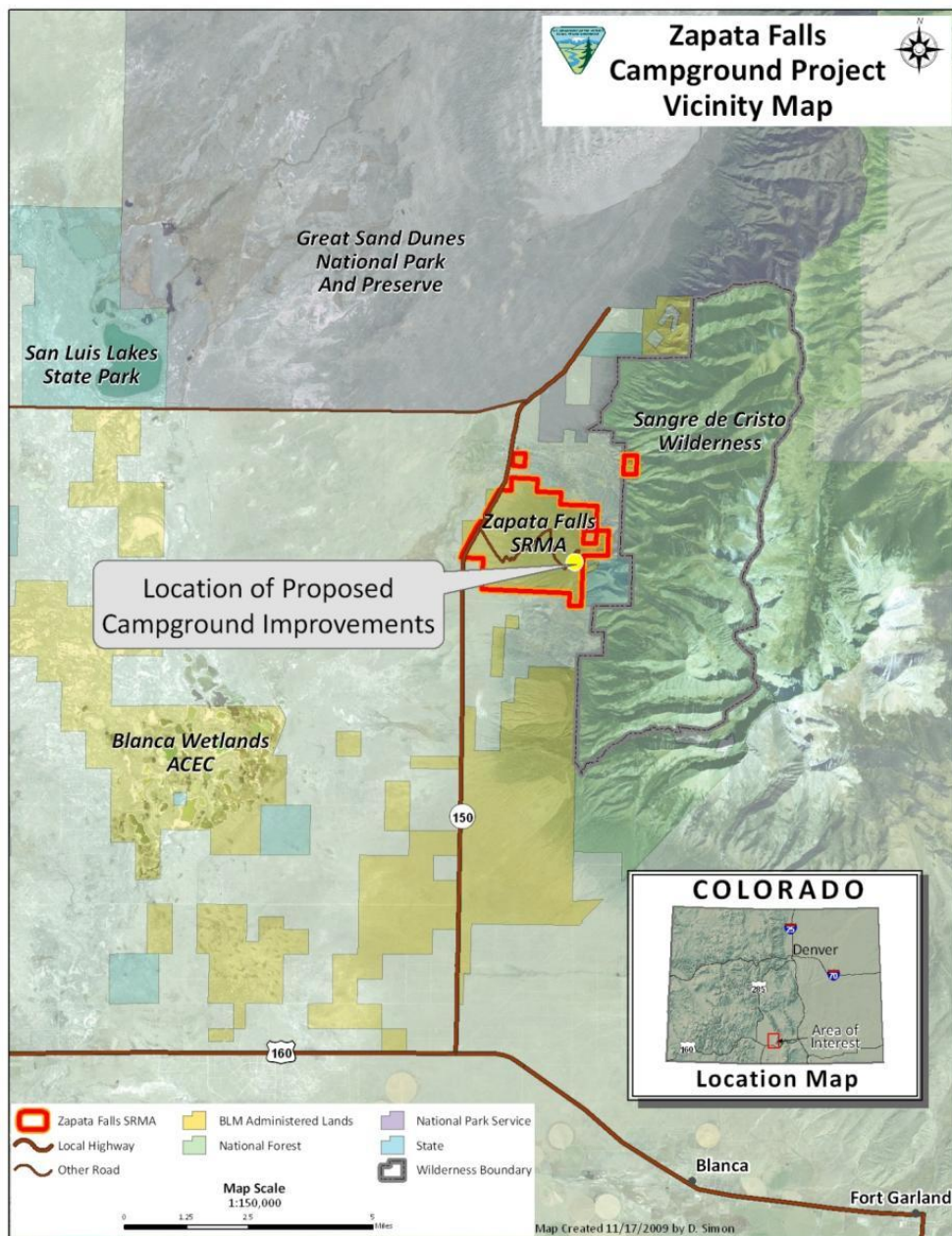
## **Part 1: Introduction**

### **A. Rationale for Plan Development**

The Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) new Land Use Planning Handbook for recreation (Appendices C and D) requires that Field Offices shift from activity based planning to Benefits Based Management (BBM) which focuses on recreation experiences and benefits. The approved Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the San Luis Resource Area does not incorporate BBM principles. The purpose of this Recreation Area Management Plan (RAMP) for the Zapata Falls Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) is not to amend the approved RMP but to prepare for the upcoming revision of the RMP. This RAMP will be incorporated into the RMP during the revision process. This RAMP will also facilitate the implementation of new activities proposed in the Zapata Falls SRMA that are consistent with BBM principles during this interim period. Project level planning documents for the Zapata Falls SRMA will tier to this RAMP until the RMP is revised. The completion of this RAMP will also serve to meet direction in the approved RMP that requires the development of an activity plan for Zapata Falls SRMA focusing on improved access to the falls and needed facilities including day use, interpretative signing, etc. (RMP, Chapter 2, Page 16).

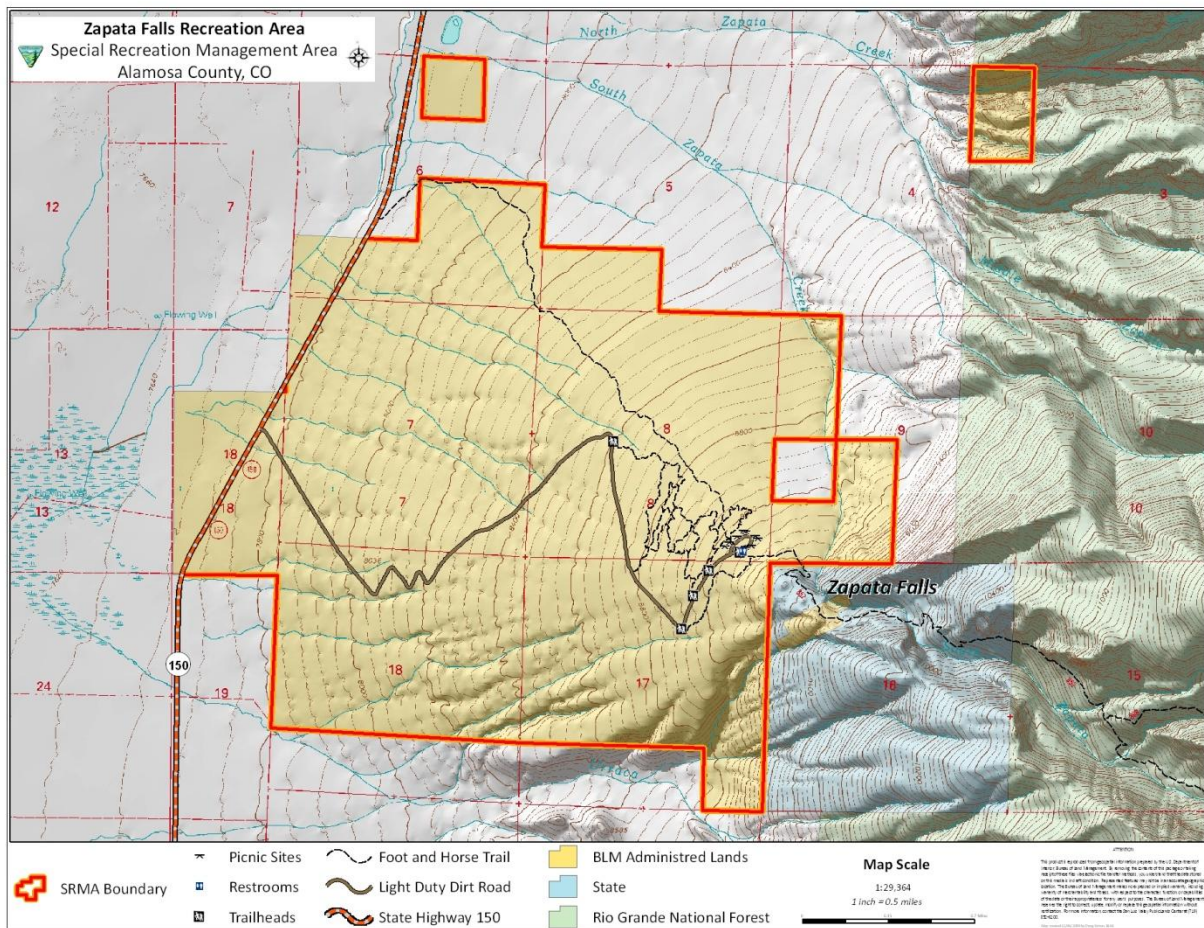
### **B. Background Information**

The Zapata Falls SRMA is located at the base of the Sangre de Cristo Mountain range in southern Colorado about five miles south of Great Sand Dunes National Park (Figure 1). Public access to Zapata Falls and the development of the parking and day use areas on public lands occurred in the 1990's and was a cooperative effort that involved fourteen agencies. The actual waterfall is located on State Land Board lands (Figure 2). The BLM and the Colorado State Board of Land Commissioners entered into a cooperative management agreement on January 28, 1994. This agreement was put in place to allow the BLM to cooperatively manage the area for recreational uses until a proposed land exchange could be completed. The proposed land exchange was never consummated and the existing agreement has never been terminated. The State Land Board currently has concerns over liability resulting from the public use at Zapata Falls and is interested in re-initiating a land exchange with the BLM. The proposed land exchange is consistent with the approved RMP which included a Management Action Decision to pursue acquisition of private lands within the Zapata Falls SRMA (RMP, Chapter 2, Page 16). The road accessing the Zapata Falls day use area, road number 5415, was constructed by Alamosa County in the early 1990's. On June 14, 1993 Alamosa County entered into an agreement with the BLM to provide "Specific long term maintenance/management commitment e.g. will maintain road to BLM Collector road standards-including parking areas. Provide the necessary culvert maintenance when the need occurs." This agreement expired on September 30, 1998. Alamosa County has continued to maintain the road but not to BLM standards. Uncertainty currently exists over jurisdiction of road 5415 with neither Alamosa County nor the BLM claiming ownership or jurisdiction of this road.



**Figure 1. Vicinity Map**





**Figure 2. Zapata Falls SRMA**

### **C. Approved Resource Management Plan**

The Record of Decision for the approved RMP was signed by the Associate State Director of the BLM on December 18, 1991. The approved RMP included a land use allocation decision that designated the Zapata Falls SRMA (6,302 acres) which is to be managed for intensive recreation (RMP, Chapter 2, Page 16). The approved RMP is in need of revision and this is scheduled to occur in the coming years.

### **D. Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management**

An amendment to the approved RMP for the San Luis Resource Area that addressed comprehensive trails and travel management was approved on June 4, 2009. Site specific direction in this amendment that affects the Zapata Falls SRMA includes:

- 1) Road 5415 is open to motorized and mechanized uses. This includes the loop in the day use area.
- 2) Mechanized use, which includes mountain bikes, is permitted on 6.85 miles of trails within the SRMA.
- 3) The trail to the falls is open to horse and foot travel for 0.3 miles on public lands.

- 4) Motorized or mechanized travel off of these designated routes within the SRMA is not permitted.

## **Part 2: Planning Process**

### **A. Preplanning**

We conducted a series of focus groups and informal interviews between September 2007 and May 2008. All of these, except one focus group, took place at the Zapata Falls SRMA. By performing these focus groups and informal interviews we received feedback from a variety of users who utilize the area at different times of the year. Some of the people we spoke with love the site as it currently is and did not want change, while many others thought the site could be improved and provided ideas on how we could do this. We took the information that they shared with us and used it in formulating this plan.

### **B. Primary Market-Based Strategy**

The primary market-based strategy identified for the Zapata Falls SRMA is a *destination strategy*. The Zapata Falls SRMA is located in an area where national, regional and local visitors value public lands as recreation-tourism destinations. The Zapata Falls SRMA is part of a complex of government owned lands administered by the Park Service, Forest Service, Colorado State Parks and BLM, all of which are located in close proximity to one another. Visitors are attracted to this area to visit Great Sand Dunes National Park, the Sangre de Cristo Wilderness Area, Blanca Wetlands, Zapata Falls and San Luis Lakes.

The San Luis Valley is a relatively poor area where recreation and tourism are an important part of the local economy. The development of the Zapata Falls SRMA was driven by community interest in providing additional recreation opportunities in Alamosa County that would keep visitors in the area for a longer period of time. This desire was based on the premise that the longer tourists were in Alamosa County the more money they would spend at local businesses. A *community strategy* was considered for the Zapata Falls SRMA but a *destination strategy* is more appropriate. Although, it is recognized that visitors to the public lands provide benefits to the local communities.

### **C. Market Description**

The primary market consists of families and friends from Colorado and the adjacent states who come to the area to visit the Great Sand Dunes National Park but who are also interested in visiting other destinations in close proximity to the park. These visitors are interested in participating in a wide variety of activities which includes sight seeing, hiking, camping, mountain biking, wildlife viewing, picnicking, backpacking, hunting, fishing and horseback riding. Many local families have visited Zapata Falls for generations and have a strong attraction to the area.

#### D. Identification of Recreation Management Zones

Four distinct Recreation Management Zones (RMZs) were identified in the Zapata Falls SRMA. These include zone number 1 which includes the network of trails below the day use area, zone number 2 which encompasses the day use trails, zone number 3 which is the trail to the Wilderness, and zone 4 will encompass the campground (Figure 3).

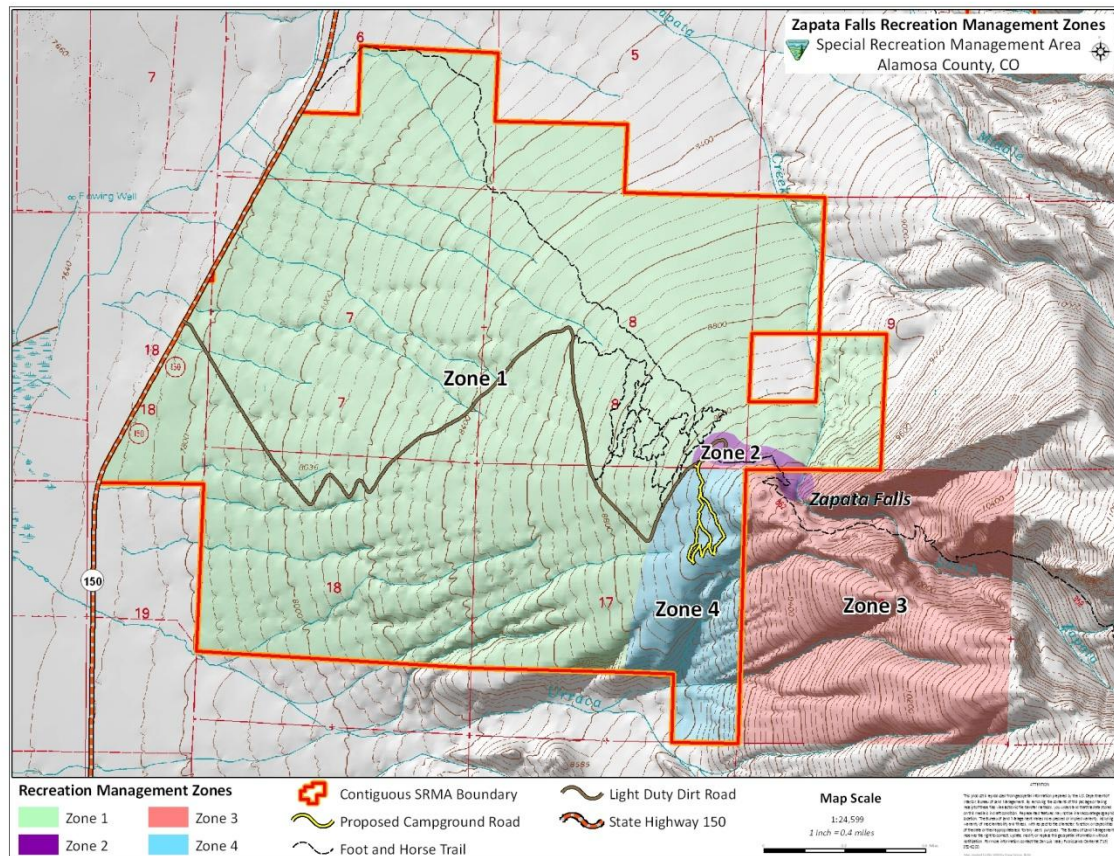


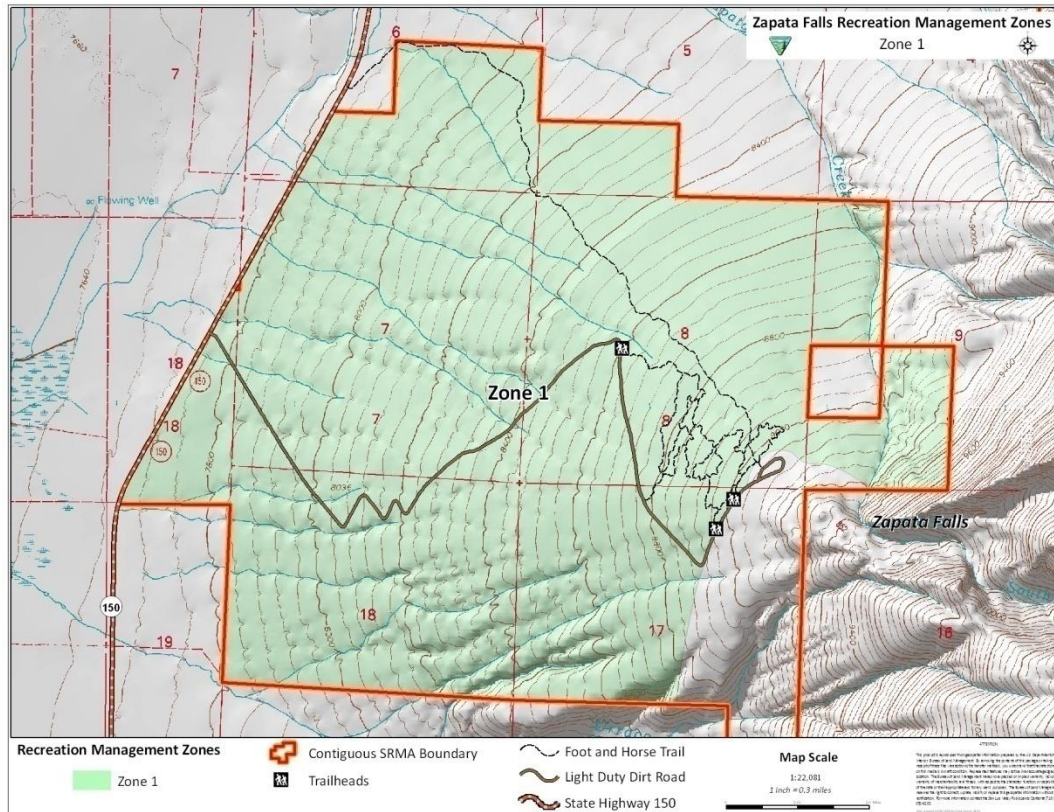
Figure 3. Recreation Management Zones

#### E. Recreation Management Zone #1

##### 1. RMZ Objective and Activities:

To provide opportunities to engage in quality day use recreation such as single track mountain biking and hiking. While mountain biking, it is hoped that visitors will be able to test their endurance, enjoy strenuous exercise, and develop their skills and abilities. While hiking, it is hoped that visitors will enjoy the natural world and physical exercise. Visitors should benefit from the area through; improved mental well being, greater family bonding, and enhanced ability for visitors to find areas providing wanted recreation opportunities and benefits (Figure 4).





**Figure 4. RMZ #1**

**2. RMZ Setting Character Conditions:**

Prescribed setting characters for this recreation management zone are primarily back country, with limited primitive and middle country. The implementation (activity) planning framework is intended to maintain or improve the prescribed setting character. The physical setting character (middle country/back country) provides for opportunities to experience a naturally appearing landscape with maintained trails not far from access roads. The social setting character (back country/middle country) provides for opportunities for limited encounters with other visitors, in small groups. The operational setting character (backcountry) provides for non-motorized use in an area with limited visitor services and controls.

**3. RMZ Activity Planning Framework:**

The management actions planned to achieve this objective include redesigning the existing trails to better accommodate mountain bike use, improve signage, and trail maintenance. These management actions achieve this management objective by providing improved facilities to accommodate trail users. These actions would improve the prescribed setting character for this recreation management zone. The operational setting character would be improved by changes to visitor services through improvement of the trail system. The current trail system is not conducive to mountain biking. A properly designed mountain



bike trail has a flow to it so that riders do not have to stop, but only vary their speed to negotiate the trail. We will redesign the trails to incorporate the desired flow, and possibly add some challenges, with bypasses, to accommodate different skill levels. The current signage for the trail system is confusing. The signage is not consistent and does not accurately portray to visitors the opportunities that are available. The signage will be updated on the trails and at the trailhead(s), including a map of the system so that visitors may better understand the opportunities available. Information regarding the trails would be made available to the public in a new brochure for the Zapata Falls Recreation Area and on the BLM webpage. The trail redesign would be completed using volunteers or by obtaining BLM flex funding. Comment cards and informal interviews with visitors would be used to monitor the effectiveness of these management actions on achieving the objective for this recreation management zone.

#### 4. RMZ #1 Summary Table

Zapata Falls

Special Recreation Management Area

SRMA PRIMARY MARKET STRATEGY		SRMA MARKET
Destination		Valley Visitors (i.e. Sand Dunes visitors)
Day Use Trails #1		Recreation Management Zone
RMZ MARKET SEGMENT (NICHE)		
Day Use Hikers and Mountain bikers		
RMZ OUTCOME OBJECTIVE		
By the year 2015, manage this zone to provide opportunities to engage in quality single track mountain biking, day use, recreation. Through the life of the plan, surveyed respondents will realize an averaged “moderate” attainment of the targeted experiences and outcomes (eg. 1= not at all, 2= somewhat, 3= moderate, 4= total realization).		
TARGETED OPPORTUNITIES & OUTCOMES		
Activities	Experience	Benefits
Mountain Biking	Test endurance. Enjoying strenuous exercise. Developing skills and abilities.	<b><u>Personal:</u></b> Improved mental well-being. <b><u>Community/Social:</u></b> Greater family bonding. <b><u>Environmental:</u></b> Improved maintenance of physical facilities. <b><u>Economic:</u></b> Enhanced abilities for visitors to find areas providing wanted recreation experiences and benefits .
Hiking	Enjoying the natural world. Enjoying physical exercise.	
PRESCRIBED SETTING CHARACTER		
Physical	Social	Operational
<b><u>Remoteness:</u></b> Middle Country	<b><u>Contacts:</u></b> Back Country/ Middle Country	<b><u>Mechanized Use:</u></b> Back Country
<b><u>Naturalness:</u></b> Back Country	<b><u>Group Size:</u></b> Back Country/ Middle Country	<b><u>Management controls:</u></b> Middle Country
<b><u>Facilities:</u></b> Back Country	<b><u>Evidence of Use:</u></b> Middle Country	<b><u>Visitor Services:</u></b> Middle Country
IMPLEMENTATION (ACTIVITY) PLANING FRAMEWORK		
Management	Redesign trails to better accommodate mountain bike use, Improve signage, Perform trail maintenance	
Marketing (inc. education & interpretation)	Provide brochure with map, Update webpage, Work with partners on distributing brochure (NPS)	
Administration	Create partnerships to utilize volunteers, Obtain funding through BPS and/or grants, NEPA/plan for proposed changes to trail system	
Monitoring	Comment cards, Visitor contacts	

## F. Recreation Management Zone #2

### 1. RMZ Objective and Activities:

To provide day use opportunities for visitors to use and enjoy this unique area. While viewing the falls it is hoped that visitors will enjoy exploring and experiencing a unique feature in the natural landscape. While picnicking, it is hoped that visitors will enjoy the closeness of family and friends. While ice climbing it is hoped that visitors will enjoy a risk taking adventure. The views from this area are spectacular; especially of the valley, Blanca Wetlands, and the Great Sand Dunes. It is hoped that visitors will also learn about their surrounding while at the location. Visitors should benefit from the area through; improved mental well being and stronger ties with family and friend while improving local economic stability through an increase in local tourism revenues, while reducing negative human impacts such as vegetative trampling, unplanned trails, and visitor safety at the falls (Figure 5).

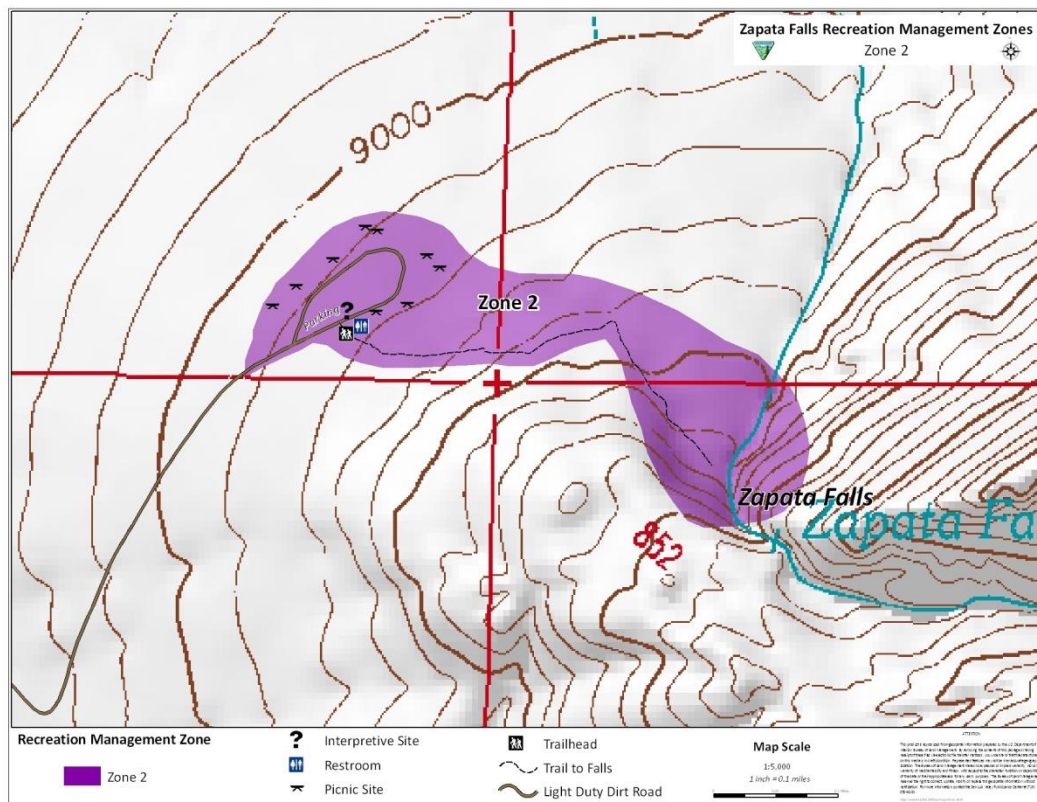


Figure 5. RMZ#2

### 2. RMZ Setting Character Conditions:

Prescribed setting characters for this recreation management zone are primarily front country, but range from back country to rural. The implementation (activity) planning framework is intended to maintain or improve the prescribed setting character. The



physical setting character (front country) provides for opportunities to experience a natural landscape that is not overpowered by human alterations. Visitor facilities will be present such as restrooms, picnic sites, interpretive signage, and trails.

The social setting character (back country to rural) provides for opportunities for groups, of family size predominately, to enjoy the area. The amount of visitation changes with the seasons; with summer being the busiest time when there are almost always people present to winter, the slowest, where a person may not see another visitor during the day.

The operational setting character (front country) provides for 2 wheel drive access to the parking and picnic areas where visitors will find informational and interpretive signage to inform them about the area.

### **3. RMZ Activity Planning Framework:**

The management actions planned to achieve this objective include the following: improved signage, reduce safety hazards at the falls, improve interpretive messages, reduce illegal camping, improve picnic area, trail maintenance, increased agency presence, and general maintenance of the facilities. The signage in this zone is not as informative as the public would like it to be and it is sometimes conflicting. Through improving the signage we would interpretively convey the information that the public is requesting to know as well as messages that the agency wishes to express. The picnic area is poorly designed, and the majority of the visitors do not realize the opportunity exists at the site. The public who do notice the picnic area seem to be confused as to the purpose of the site and think the tables and grills are campsite. This leads to illegal camping as this zone is day use only. By redesigning the picnic area and improving signage much of this confusion can be alleviated and the visitors will be aware of the opportunities available to them. There are potential safety hazards at the falls that will be address. A barrier, such as a fence, will be placed along the west side of the trail as it enters the canyon that contains the falls to prevent visitors from trying to view the falls from above. The falls cannot be view from above, and foot traffic at the top of the canyon sometime dislodges rocks that could fall on visitors below.

Information regarding the day use area would be made available to the public in a new brochure for the Zapata Falls Recreation Area and on the BLM webpage. The BLM will work with the State of Colorado to acquire the land that the falls in located on, this could possibly be through a land exchange. The BLM will continue to work with the National Park Service under a Service First agreement to perform maintenance at this site. The management actions listed above would be completed using volunteers or by obtaining BLM flex funding. Comment cards and informal interviews with visitors would be used to monitor the effectiveness of these management actions on achieving the objective for this recreation management zone.

#### 4. RMZ #2 Summary Table

Zapata Falls

Special Recreation Management Area

SRMA PRIMARY MARKET STRATEGY		SRMA MARKET
Destination		Valley visitors
Day Use Area #2		Recreation Management Zone
RMZ MARKET SEGMENT (NICHE)		
Day use sightseeing and picnicking		
RMZ OUTCOME OBJECTIVE		
By the year 2015 to provide day use opportunities for visitors to use and enjoy this unique area. Through the life of the plan, surveyed respondents will realize an averaged “moderate” attainment of the targeted experiences and outcomes (eg. 1= not at all, 2= somewhat, 3= moderate, 4= total realization).		
TARGETED OPPORTUNITIES & OUTCOMES		
Activities	Experience	Benefits
Viewing the falls	Enjoying exploring. Experiencing unique feature in natural landscape.	<b><u>Personal:</u></b> Improved mental well being. <b><u>Community/Social:</u></b> Stronger ties with friends and family. <b><u>Environmental:</u></b> Reduce negative impacts such as vegetation trampling, unplanned trails, safety hazards to visitors. <b><u>Economic:</u></b> Improve local economic stability. Increase local tourism revenue.
Picnicking	Enjoying closeness of friends and family.	
Valley views	Enjoying spectacular view. Learning about things here.	
Ice climbing	Enjoying risk taking adventure.	
PRESCRIBED SETTING CHARACTER		
Physical	Social	Operational
<b><u>Remoteness:</u></b> Front Country	<b><u>Contacts:</u></b> Rural (summer), Back Country (winter)	<b><u>Mechanized Use:</u></b> Front Country
<b><u>Naturalness:</u></b> Front Country	<b><u>Group Size:</u></b> Back Country	<b><u>Management controls:</u></b> Middle Country
<b><u>Facilities:</u></b> Front Country	<b><u>Evidence of Use:</u></b> Front Country	<b><u>Visitor Services:</u></b> Front Country
IMPLEMENTATION (ACTIVITY) PLANING FRAMEWORK		
Management	Trail maintenance, improve signage, General maintenance (picnic area and toilet), Increased agency presence, Reduce safety hazards at falls, Improve interpretation messages, Reduce illegal camping, Improve picnic area	
Marketing (inc. education & interpretation)	Provide brochure, update webpage, work with partners to distribute brochure	
Administration	Manage SRPs, Land exchange/acquisition of state land, Service First agreement with NPS, create partnerships to utilize volunteers, acquire funding through BPS submissions	
Monitoring	Comment cards, Visitor contacts	

## G. Recreation Management Zone #3

### 1. RMZ Objective and Activities:

To provide a quality trailhead and access to the Sangre de Cristo Wilderness Area. The primary activities include hiking and equestrian use (Figure 6).

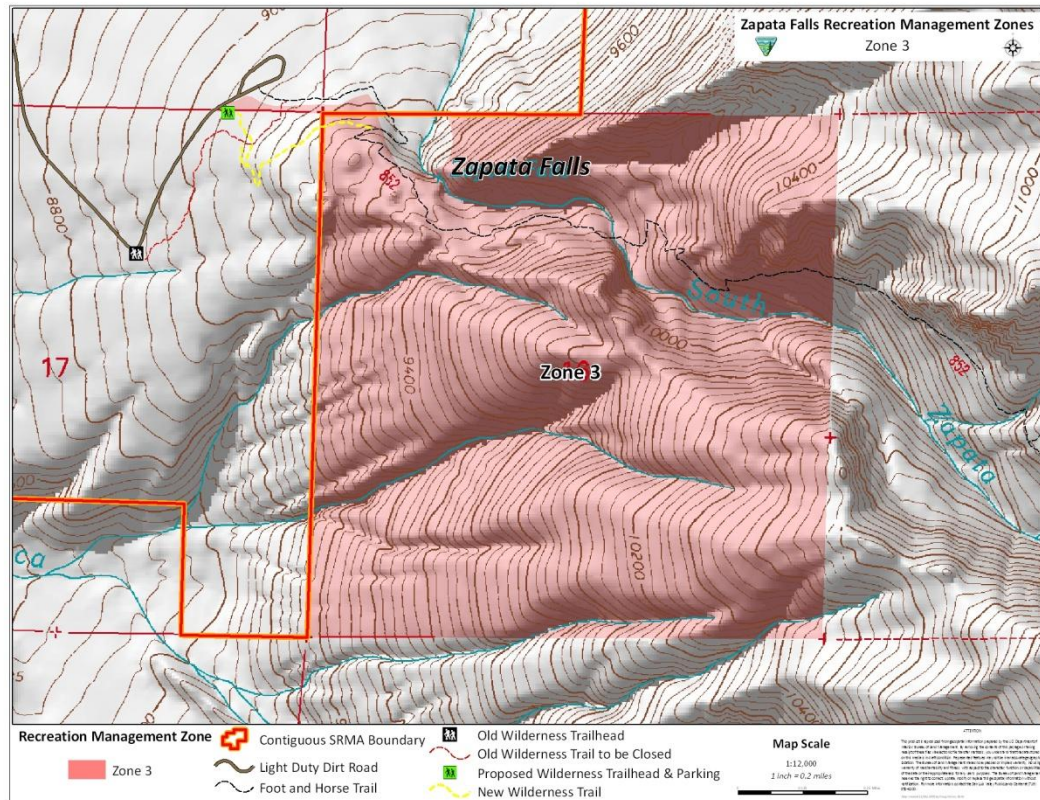


Figure 6. RMZ #3

### 2. RMZ Setting Character Conditions:

Prescribed setting characters for this recreation management zone are primarily back country or primitive. The implementation (activity) planning framework is intended to maintain or improve the prescribed setting character. The physical setting character (backcountry) provides for opportunities to experience undisturbed natural landscapes away from roads with limited facilities. The social setting character (primitive) provides for opportunities for solitude where encounters with other visitors are rare and where group sizes are generally small. The operational setting character (backcountry) provides for non-mechanized use in an area with limited visitor services and visitor controls.



### **3. RMZ Activity Planning Framework:**

The management actions planned to achieve this objective includes trail maintenance, improving the trailhead, and rerouting the trail away from the day use area. These management actions achieve this management objective by reducing user conflicts and by providing improved facilities to accommodate trail users. The existing trailhead is located on a switchback on BLM road #5415 approximately ½ mile from the day use area. This switchback does not provide sufficient parking facilities for overnight users accessing the wilderness area. Many of these overnight users would like to park large trucks with horse trailers and rarely use this trailhead because it does not provide a facility where they are comfortable parking their vehicles. This proposal would move the trailhead to the entrance road to the campground. Moving the trailhead and expanding the size the parking area would provide an improved parking area away from the main road as well as provide improved security due to the proximity of the trailhead to the campground. About ½ mile of the trail that parallels the main road would be closed. This proposal also includes the construction of a new section of trail that would connect the new trailhead/campground to Forest Trail 852. A portion of this new trail segment would be on State lands so the BLM would have to get permission from the State Land Board or acquire these lands prior to initiating trail construction. This new trail construction would allow equestrian users to access the wilderness area without using the segment of trail that hikers are using to access Zapata Falls. This would reduce user conflicts between hikers and equestrian users on this trail. This new trail construction would also allow campers to access Zapata Falls without needing to go to the day use area. These actions would improve the prescribed setting character for this recreation management zone. The segment of trail being closed does not provide the desired physical setting due to its close proximity to the main access road and to the day use area. Moving the trailhead to the proposed location and closing this segment of trail would improve the prescribed physical setting character in this recreation management zone. The proposed trail reroute would improve the social setting by reducing contacts with hikers accessing Zapata Falls. The operational setting character would be improved by changes to visitor services through improvement of the trailhead facilities. Information regarding the trailhead and trail would be made available to the public in a new brochure for the Zapata Falls Recreation Area and on the BLM webpage. The new trailhead construction would be included in the contract for construction of the campground. The new trail construction would be completed using volunteers or by obtaining BLM flex funding. The BLM would partner with the Forest Service to perform trail maintenance of Forest Trail 852. Comment cards and informal interviews with visitors would be used to monitor the effectiveness of these management actions on achieving the objective for this recreation management zone.

#### 4. RMZ #3 Summary Table

Zapata Falls

Special Recreation Management Area

SRMA PRIMARY MARKET STRATEGY		SRMA MARKET
Destination		Valley Visitors
Wilderness Trail #3		Recreation Management Zone
RMZ MARKET SEGMENT (NICHE)		
Wilderness trail user (backpacker & equestrian)		
RMZ OUTCOME OBJECTIVE		
To provide quality trailhead and access to Sangre De Cristo Wilderness. Through the life of the plan, surveyed respondents will realize an averaged "moderate" attainment of the targeted experiences and outcomes (eg. 1= not at all, 2= somewhat, 3= moderate, 4= total realization).		
TARGETED OPPORTUNITIES & OUTCOMES		
Activities	Experience	Benefits
Hiking  Horseback riding	Enjoying needed physical exercise. Developing skills and abilities. Enjoying escape from crowds. Experiencing independence. Feeling good about solitude, being isolated, and independent.	<b><u>Personal:</u></b> Improved mental well-being. Greater self-reliance. <b><u>Community/Social:</u></b> More informed citizenry about where to go for different kinds of recreation experiences and benefits. <b><u>Environmental:</u></b> Increased desirability of place to live or retire. <b><u>Economic:</u></b> Maintenance of distinctive recreation setting character.
PRESCRIBED SETTING CHARACTER		
Physical	Social	Operational
<b><u>Remoteness:</u></b> Back Country	<b><u>Contacts:</u></b> Primitive	<b><u>Mechanized Use:</u></b> Backcountry
<b><u>Naturalness:</u></b> Primitive	<b><u>Group Size:</u></b> Primitive	<b><u>Management controls:</u></b> Primitive
<b><u>Facilities:</u></b> Back Country	<b><u>Evidence of Use:</u></b> Back Country	<b><u>Visitor Services:</u></b> Backcountry
IMPLEMENTATION (ACTIVITY) PLANING FRAMEWORK		
Management	Trail maintenance, Reroute trail away from day use trail, Improve trailhead	
Marketing (inc. education & interpretation)	Brochure, Update webpage	
Administration	Partner with Forest Service on trail maintenance, Create partnerships to utilize volunteers, NEPA/Plan for reroute, Obtain funds for reroute (BPS and/or grants)	
Monitoring	Comment cards, Visitor contacts	

## H. Recreation Management Zone #4

### 1. RMZ Objective and Activities:

To provide opportunities for camping on a low development scale. While camping, it is hoped that visitors will have a feeling of escaping everyday responsibilities for a while, and enjoy the closeness of family and friends. While hiking, it is hoped that visitors will enjoy a closeness of nature. Visitors should benefit from the area through; a restored mind from unwanted stress and greater family bonding. The environmental benefits are improved maintenance of physical facilities and reduction of impacts from illegal camping in the day use area. The economic benefits are increased local tourism revenue and greater fiscal capacity to maintain infrastructure and services (Figure 7).

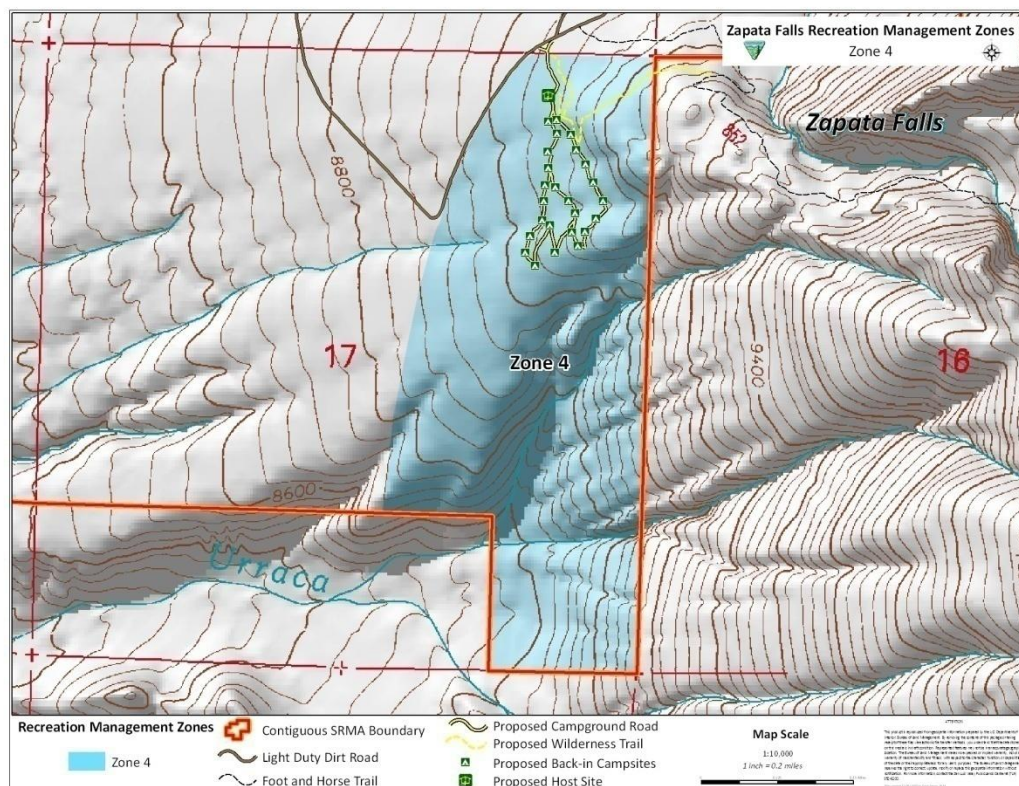


Figure 7. RMZ #4

### 2. RMZ Setting Character Conditions:

Prescribed setting characters for this recreation management zone is front country. The implementation (activity) planning framework is intended to maintain or improve the prescribed setting character. The physical setting character (front country) provides for opportunities to experience a natural landscape that is not overpowered by human alterations. Visitor facilities will be present such as restrooms, campsites sites, and a trail. The social setting character (front country) provides for opportunities for groups, of family size predominately, to enjoy the area. The operational setting character (front country)



provides for 2 wheel drive access to the campground, where visitors will find informational and interpretive signage to inform them about the area.

**3. RMZ Activity Planning Framework:**

The management actions planned to achieve this objective include the following: design and construct a campground, construct trail to connect to other zones, and general maintenance. Through focus groups and informal interviews the public has indicated that there is a desire for camping with in the SRMA, which does not currently exist. By providing this opportunity we will eliminate the problem of illegal camping in the Day Use Area zone. The campground will be of a low development scale as that is what the public has indicated as the preferred style and so that we are not competing with other camping providers in the area (private, state, and NPS). The BLM anticipates having a host located in the campground during the operating season to help with daily operations and general maintenance. The trail construction will allow campground user to access the trail to view the falls as well as the Wilderness trail.

Information regarding the campground would be made available to the public in a new brochure for the Zapata Falls Recreation Area and on the BLM webpage. The management actions listed above would be completed using American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds, while the trail will be completed using volunteers or by obtaining BLM flex funding. Comment cards and informal interviews with visitors would be used to monitor the effectiveness of these management actions on achieving the objective for this recreation management zone.

## 5. RMZ #4 Summary Table

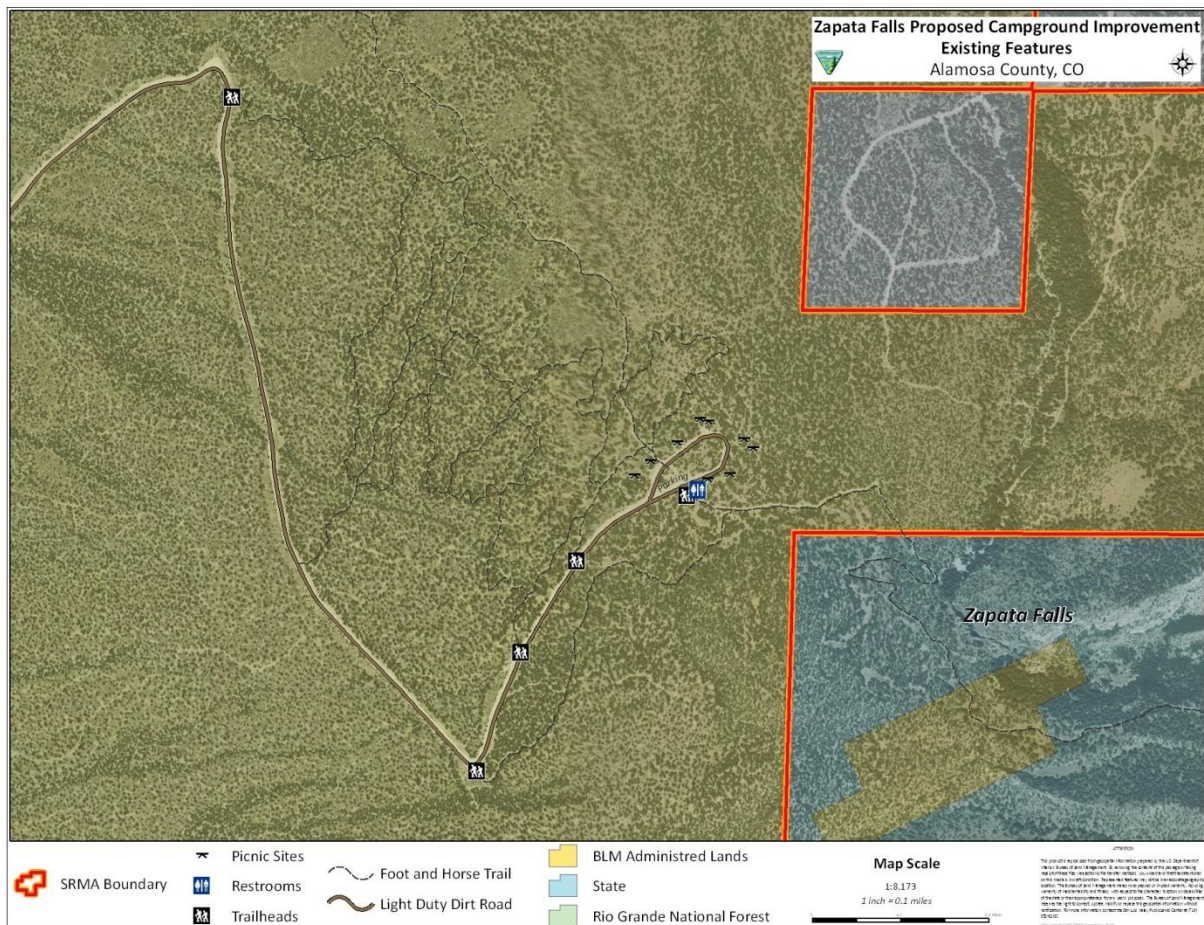
Zapata Falls

Special Recreation Management Area

SRMA PRIMARY MARKET STRATEGY		SRMA MARKET
Destination	Valley visitors	
Campground #4	Recreation Management Zone	
RMZ MARKET SEGMENT (NICHE)		
Overnight campers (non-RV)		
RMZ OUTCOME OBJECTIVE		
By the year 2011 manage zone to provide a low development scale camping experience. Through the life of the plan, surveyed respondents will realize an averaged “moderate” attainment of the targeted experiences and outcomes (eg. 1= not at all, 2= somewhat, 3= moderate, 4= total realization).		
TARGETED OPPORTUNITIES & OUTCOMES		
Activities	Experience	Benefits
Camping	Escaping everyday responsibilities for a while. Enjoying closeness of friends and family.	<b><u>Personal:</u></b> Restored mind from unwanted stress. <b><u>Community/Social:</u></b> Greater family bonding. <b><u>Environmental:</u></b> Improve maintenance of physical facilities. Reduce impacts of illegal camping in day use area. <b><u>Economic:</u></b> Greater fiscal capacity to maintain infrastructure and services. Increased local tourism revenue.
Hiking	Enjoying closeness of nature.	
PRESCRIBED SETTING CHARACTER		
Physical	Social	Operational
<b><u>Remoteness:</u></b> Front Country	<b><u>Contacts:</u></b> Front Country	<b><u>Mechanized Use:</u></b> Front Country
<b><u>Naturalness:</u></b> Front Country	<b><u>Group Size:</u></b> Back Country	<b><u>Management controls:</u></b> Front Country
<b><u>Facilities:</u></b> Front Country	<b><u>Evidence of Use:</u></b> Front Country	<b><u>Visitor Services:</u></b> Front Country
IMPLEMENTATION (ACTIVITY) PLANING FRAMEWORK		
Management	Design and construct campground, General maintenance, Construct trail to connect to other zones	
Marketing (inc. education & interpretation)	Brochure, Update webpage, Signage by highway	
Administration	Collect fees, NEPA/plan for campground and trail, Facilitate campground host program, Evaluate need/demand for water supply, Work with Alamosa County on road maintenance, Create partnerships to utilize volunteers	
Monitoring	Comment cards, Visitor contacts	

### Part 3: Summary

The Zapata Falls SRMA is a very special place to many people. Currently the overwhelming majority of visitors only visit the area to experience the falls. Visitors either do not know about the other opportunities available or they do not care for some aspect of what is offered. Through this plan we hope to improve all of the opportunities and experiences available to the visitors throughout the SRMA, without inherently changing the experience that visitors have come to love while viewing the falls (Figure 8&9).



**Figure 8. Existing Condition**





**Figure 9. Proposed Changes to Recreation Facilities**